Production of British India Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies

*59. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA- Will the Minister of TEXTILES foe pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the textile mills under the British Indian Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies have been working much below their average capacities;

(b) whether Goetnment's attention have been drawn to the a-ws-item appearing in a Hindi daily "Swatantra Bharat". Kanpur of the 13th November, 1991 captioned "Lal-imli Ka Utpadan 90 fisadi gira"; and

(c) if so, what ara the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(e) The news-item refers to fall in production at Lal-Imli, high level of defective production, irregularities in sales and purchase of yarn. The news-item is not entirely based on facts. The plant utilisation at Lal-imli has been about 32 per cent due to funds constraints and non-availability of the essential raw material. The value loss on account of defects m the finished goods at Lalimli and Dhariv. al has been by and large son-tarred. The management of these mills is aware of the problems and suitable remedial measures are being taken to improve the position.

Setting up of New Airports

*80. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hare a proposal to set up some new airports during the eurrent financial year;

(b) if so, the places identified herefor; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the construction of these airports?

THE MINISTER OP CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amending National Highways Act

212. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national highways in the country have become very congested;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this matter;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the National Highways Act and *ii* so, by when; and

(d) whether Government also propose to involve private sector and if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The National Highways in the country are generally in a traffic-worthy condition, though certain stretches are getting congested by traffic. Consequently, various steps are being taken to improve the capacity of National High-ways in high traffic density corridors within the overall availability of funds, viz..

(i) provision of pared side shoulders;

(ii) widening to 4-lana divided carriageway; and

(iii) improvement of traffic flow through propec sign boards, pave ment markings, junction Improve ment etc.